

LTBB Election Board Nonimination Application Form - SECTION 3
CANDIDATE STATEMENT (Limit to 1 page)
(This Section of Form Will Be Published on LTBB Website)



Boozhoo. My name is Kelly Wesaw. My parents are Frank and Viola Compo. My Mother, surname Shomin, was born and raised in Petoskey by her parents Joseph and Louisa Shomin. I have been married to Carl Wesaw Sr. (Pokagon) for 46 years. We are blessed with seven children, twenty-one grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. I spend my winters at round-dances and my summers at powwows. I am a water protector who performed the yearly water ceremony for the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians and Grand Rapids Public Museum. I am honored to be a candidate for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Council.

I believe Tribal citizens have a right to leaders who care about and understand their needs and ideas, leaders who meaningfully listen to and represent them. LTBB deserves leaders who plan for and implement change to strengthen sovereignty, citizen services, and revenue.

I have over twenty-five years of working for or in support of tribes, with a focus on one of the most critical tribal pillars: health services. My last workplace was serving the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomini Indians, where I progressed in my career for over nineteen years. For the last six of those years, I was an award-winning Health and Human Services Director. During my tenure, I built several programs from the ground up. I also dedicated significant volunteer time to developing and strengthening the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians' government infrastructure, particularly in tribal enrollment, as both the Enrollment Specialist and Director. I also chaired the Three Fires Powwow for ten years, when it was the second-largest event in Grand Rapids.

If elected, I want to improve health services by increasing the sovereign independence of LTBB's Health Services while maximizing federal appropriations. This includes working with the Executive branch to expand the benefits covered by Purchase Referred Care dollars and ensuring billing practices and department policies are consistently- and wisely- applied, especially for elders. I am also interested in establishing a health board that regulates and enforces these improvement initiatives. Further, I would like to evaluate and improve the efficacy of human and behavioral health to ensure native clients have the proper care in difficult life circumstances. Finally, I hope to better the Tribe's financial position by reducing its substantial reliance on the federal government. As part of that goal, I would like to improve or redesign Tribal practices and programs to create a sustaining foundation of support for the next seven generations. We must maintain good stewardship over our resources and hold the federal government to its trust responsibility.

I know my goals are lofty and will take the partnership of those at all levels of government, but with your support, I believe we can start improving Tribal outcomes for citizens and build on our success towards a prosperous future. I am confident we can again be an example of self-government in Indian Country. That partnership starts with your vote. And I would be honored to have your vote and represent you in office.

**LTBB Election Board Nomination Application Form - SECTION 2
(This Section of Form Will Be Published on LTBB Website)**

Kelly Wesaw

Petitioner's Name As It Should Appear On The Ballot

Hopkins, MI

City & State of Residency

1. Work Experience:

19 years at Gun Lake Tribe Health & Human Services. I started as the Contract Health Services (CHS) Clerk and worked the last 6 years as the Health & Human Services Director.

2 years at Indian Health Services (IHS) as the CHS Specialist for the Bemidji Area.

2 years at LTBB as CHS Clerk and also a temporary position as the Administrative Manager for the Health Office.

2 years at Pokgan Band as CHS Clerk.

2. Educational Background:

Clerical Certificate

Davenport College, Grand Rapids, MI 1979

High School Diploma

Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids, MI 1979

3. Traditional Cultural Experience/Knowledge, and/or Other Training, Certificates:

I am always learning about traditional and cultural ways. I am a water protector who has performed Water Ceremonies.

I have taken more than forty highly accredited and sought after IHS trainings, which have all enhanced my knowledge and capabilities over the years.

4. Volunteer Experience, Special Skills and Abilities:

The Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians' government, where I developed significant command of the applicable federal enrollment rolls, including the Durant Roll. I also chaired the Three Fires Powwow for ten years when it was the second-largest event in Grand Rapids.

My skill set encompasses budget development and management, collaborative government engagement, staff supervision, reconciliation and enhancement of key services, and crisis management. I have excellent critical thinking and problem-solving skills along with outstanding communication abilities that allow me to reach all levels of stakeholders.

5. Awards, Honors Received (cultural/colonial):

I received a total of 3 national awards, 2 while working for IHS including the Area Director's Award for Outstanding Group Performance, and 1 while working for the Gun Lake Tribe- the IHS Director's Award.

6. Describe Current and/or Previous Elected or Appointed Positions Held at LTBB or in Any Other Capacity, Government, or Organization (dates, titles, etc):

I worked with the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians to help build its government and enrollment infrastructure as both the Enrollment Specialist and Director.

7. If applicable, describe anticipated Campaign Information in Detail (Campaign Address, Email, Website, Social Media, Campaign Plan, Any Endorsements, etc):

Social media (at least Facebook and Instagram), flyers/pamphlets/mailers, endorsements, public engagements, email, and an email address to serve as the campaign address where these items will be put together.